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- (a) compiling and storing a plurality of compression mapping tables for converting uncompressed data representative of individual picture elements to lossless compressed data;
 - (b) applying at least first and second compression mapping tables from the stored plurality of compression mapping tables to subregions of an uncompressed image data stream to compress the subregions; and
 - (c) appending data for the compressed subregions to form a compressed image data stream.

12. (Once amended) A method for compressing image data, the method comprising the step of:
- (a) defining a family of compression code tables for converting uncompressed image data to lossless compressed data;
 - (b) storing the compression code tables in an image data compression station and in an image data decompression station;
 - (c) selecting at least two of the compression code tables for compression of subregions of an image data stream;
 - (d) compressing the image data stream in accordance with the selected compression code tables at the compression station for decompression at the decompression station.

18. (Once amended) A system for storing, transmitting and viewing images, the system comprising:
- a data compression station configured to store a plurality of compression code tables for conversion of image data to lossless compressed image data and to execute a compression routine in which an image data stream is converted to a compressed file by dividing into subregions and each subregion compressing in accordance with a compression code table selected from the plurality of compression code tables based upon which compression code table provides optimal lossless compression of the subregion;

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~~a data storage device for receiving and storing the compressed file; and~~
an image decompression station configured to store the plurality of compression code tables, to access the compressed file from the data storage device, and to execute a decompression routine in which the compression code tables applied to compress the image data stream are applied to decompress the compressed file to reconstruct the image data stream.

24. (Once amended) ~~A computer program for compressing image data, the program comprising:~~
a machine readable medium; and
configuration code and a plurality of compression code tables stored on the machine readable medium, the configuration code including an algorithm for analyzing an image data stream, for compressing subregions of the image data stream by application of a plurality of compression code tables, and for compiling the compressed subregions into a lossless compressed data file.
